

YESTERDAY LEGACY

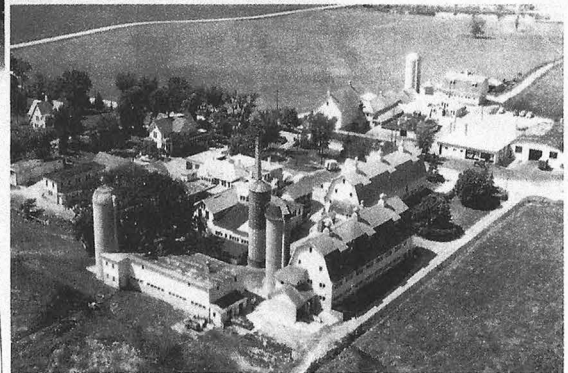


This Wern Farms staff picture was taken in 1947. Dave Williams, a descendent of the farms' founding family, is pictured in the last row, third from the left. Today, he lives down the road from where the original dairy operation was located.

People
(Worked for Wern Farms)

Baker, Jerry

2-2002



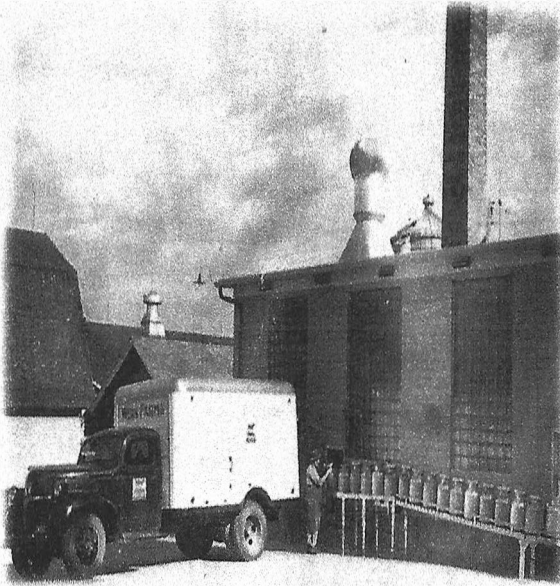
At one time, Wern Farms was the third largest dairy in the United States. The farm was located on 2,000 acres of property in the town of Genesee.

Wern Farms in the town of Genesee earned the proud title as the third largest dairy in the United States during its heyday in the mid 1900s. The Williams Family ran the dairy farm from the 1920s to 1970, when they sold the dairy business to Borden.

During the peak of its production years, Wern Farms pasteurized and homogenized milk collected from 28 farms in the area producing milk, cottage cheese and cream which they delivered to homes via 47 delivery trucks.

Today, Wern Valley, a hunting and shooting club run by Steve and Patty Williams, is located on a portion of the property.

The name Wern Farms comes from the Welsh word "wern" which refers to a marsh or fertile valley surrounded by hills.



Elmer, an employee of Wern Farms, loaded milk cans onto a conveyor belt that ran into the bottling house where the cans were emptied and cleaned. The picture was taken in 1948.

Photos courtesy of the Williams family and Waukesha Freeman

After farming many years with my Dad, he sold the farm, it had been in the Baper name for 104 years. I took a herdsman job at Keystone farms. I took 8 head of my cattle with me. After five years with Keystone, I took a job of Herdsman with Morris at Walworth. I stayed a year at Morris when I bought a farm at Watertown. After two years I sold the farm. I took a job at Marquette University as a animal technician taking care of animals and some teaching for doctor. I worked thru 1972 years. I worked at Husco as a hydraulic tester for 20 years. I am vice president at Little Prairie Cemetery. I have 2 son & one daughter.

Also 2 grandson & one grand daughter and one great grand daughter.

The reason I retired at 64 was to take care of my wife who had cancer, she passed away in March of 1996.